

House Resolution 2329

By: Representatives Martin of the 47th and Burkhalter of the 50th

A RESOLUTION

1 Commending Chief Bill Bates of the City of Alpharetta Fire Department for his more than
2 35 years of service; and for other purposes.

3 WHEREAS, the City of Alpharetta is extremely fortunate to have its fire department led by
4 one of the finest firefighters in the state, Chief Bill Bates; and

5 WHEREAS, his family legacy, begun by his grandfather and father, is protecting the citizens
6 of Alpharetta; and

7 WHEREAS, he became very active as a volunteer firefighter in 1973 until 1980 when he was
8 hired by the City of Alpharetta as a part-time Fire Marshall before becoming a full-time
9 employee on January 4, 1988, just a year before he began serving as the city's first paid Fire
10 Chief in 1989; and

11 WHEREAS, Chief Bates has consistently provided exceptional leadership to his valiant
12 department, even in the most trying of times; and

13 WHEREAS, in the 1980's, he and many volunteers diligently worked to renovate the Hughes
14 Hardware store building into the city's first official fire station; and

15 WHEREAS, in 1989, Fire Station #2 was built, winning an award for Fire Station design of
16 the year; in 1993, Fire Stations #3 and #4 were completed; in 1998, Fire Station #5 and a new
17 Fire Station #1 were completed along with the Headquarters on Webb Bridge Road; and in
18 2006, Fire Station #6 was opened; and

19 WHEREAS, Chief Bates was involved in not only the planning of these stations, but was also
20 responsible for overseeing all the construction of the stations, resulting in a great savings to
21 the city and ensuring superior quality of all of the buildings; and

1 WHEREAS, Chief Bates has guided the City of Alpharetta Fire Department with the utmost
2 distinction; and

3 WHEREAS, during the course of his 35 years with the city, the ISO rating has dropped from
4 10 in 1957 to 3 in 2005, which has saved property owners and business owners hundreds of
5 thousands of dollars; and

6 WHEREAS, Chief Bates developed and instituted a comprehensive commercial sprinkler
7 ordinance in the early 1980's and comprehensive mutual aid agreements, intergovernmental
8 agreements, and shared services agreements with Fulton County; and

9 WHEREAS, due to the unparalleled leadership of Chief Bates, the City of Alpharetta is one
10 of the few cities with a certified Emergency Management Agency and has a state-approved
11 Emergency Operation Plan/Emergency Operation Center, integrated city-wide alert
12 system-siren system, reverse 911 system, Level 2 Haz-mat Team, and a mobile data system
13 for emergency vehicles; and

14 WHEREAS, he was instrumental in the development and management of the joint Public
15 Safety Training Center with the City of Roswell, which has evolved into a regional fire
16 training center; and

17 WHEREAS, because of the efforts of Chief Bates, the City of Alpharetta's EMS System,
18 started in the 1980's, now provides the highest level of service in the state with established
19 quality control systems; and

20 WHEREAS, Chief Bates has courageously strived to protect his fellow Georgians during his
21 tenure with the City of Alpharetta, and it is abundantly fitting and proper that his
22 extraordinary service be appropriately recognized.

23 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that
24 the members of this body join in commending Chief Bill Bates of the City of Alpharetta Fire
25 Department for his outstanding service and leadership and thank him for his invaluable
26 contributions to public safety in Georgia.

27 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the House of Representatives is authorized
28 and directed to transmit an appropriate copy of this resolution to Chief Bill Bates.